

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01464 060924Z

21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00

AID-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 SCS-03 (ISO) W

----- 055489

O 060817Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIAT 5850

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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LONDON FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IS

SUBJECT: TEL AVIV TERRORIST INCIDENT

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY SUMMARY OF MARCH 5-6 TEL AVIV
TERRORIST INCIDENT BASED ON IDF SPOKESMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT
AS WELL AS INITIAL RADIO AND NEWSPAPER REPORTS AS OF 9 AM
LOCAL TIME.

2. JUST BEFORE 11:00 PM MARCH 5 GROUP OF 6 TERRORISTS
USING TWO ZODIAC TYPE RUBBER BOATS LANDED ON BEACH IN DOWNTOWN
TEL AVIV. AFTER SPORADIC STREET SHOOTING, TERRORISTS
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BROKE INTO NEARBY SAVOY HOTEL, TAKING HOSTAGES WHO

REPORTEDLY WERE MOSTLY EUROPEAN TOURISTS. (WE ARE ATTEMPTING
CONFIRM THAT NO US CITIZENS IN HOTEL.)

3. DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MARCH 6, IDF UNITS
SURROUNDED HOTEL. DEFENSE MINISTER, CHIEF OF STAFF AND
MINISTER OF POLIC WERE PRESENT AT SCENE OF INCIDENT
UNTIL ABOUT 3 AM, NEGOTIATIONS WITH TERRORISTS WERE
CONDUCTED IN AN EFFORT TO PERSUADE TERRORISTS TO RELEASE
WOUNDED HOSTAGES. TERRORISTS DEMANDED THAT FRENCH AND
GREEK AMBASSADORS COME TO HOTEL, AND DEMANDED RELEASE OF
NUMBER OF ISRAELI-HELD TERRORISTS/ PRISONERS INCLUDING
ARCHBISHOP HILARION CAPUCCI. NEGOTIATIONS BROKE OFF SOMETIME
AFTER 3 AM. PRIME MINISER WAS IN CHARGE OF ENTIRE
OPERATION THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, BUT WAS NOT PRESENT ON
THE SCENE.

4. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICIAL ANNOUNCE-
MENT RE IDF ACTION.BEGIN TEXT. AT 5:30 THIS
MORNING ISREL FORCES STORMED AND TOOK CONTROL OF THE SAVOY HOTEL
ON THE TEL AVIV SEAFRONT WHICH HAD BEEN SEIZED DURING THE
NIGHT BY TERRORISTS WHO WERE HOLDING HOSTAGES. THE ISRAELI
FORCES DID ALL IN THEIR POWER TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THE
HOSTAGES. SOME OF THEM WERE SAVED BUT OTHERS LOST THEIR
LIVES WHEN THE TERRORISTS DETONATED AN EXPLOSIVE CHARGE
THEY HAD PREPARED EARLIER FOR THI PURPOSE. SIX TERRORISTS
WERE KILLED BY SHOTS FIRED BY ISRAELI SOLDIERS AS THEY
COMBED OUT THE ROOMS OF THE HOTEL. EVACUATION OF THE BUILDING
AND REMOVAL OF THE RUBBLE IS STILL CONTINUING. MORE DETAILS
AND EXACT INFORMATION WILL BE RELEASED LATER. END QUOTE.

5. ISRAEL RADIO AT 9:00A.M. (0700Z) REPORTS THAT CASUALTIES
SO FAR VERIFIED ARE FOUR DEAD AND TWENTY INJURED. RADIO
REPORTS ADD THAT IDF AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT THER ARE
STILL BODIES BURIED IN RUBBLE.

6. CABINET IS NOW IN SESSION IN TEL AVIV TORECEIVE REPORT
ON EVENT.
KEATING

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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